

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
August 21, 2003

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Mrs. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. George Martin, Mrs. Spearman for Supt. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, and Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the June 19th and July 17-18th meetings were approved with one amendment. Item seven on page five of the July minutes is amended to read: "We should not recommend things that don't work. . ."

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He summarized the discussion on the State Department of Education decision to scale back the testing program and the issues to be discussed at a future meeting with SDE personnel. He shared a letter from Representative Harrell with EOC members. Dr. Lindsay and Mrs. Spearman, representing the SDE, commented on the concerns.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He distributed the assumptions that are to be used in the construction of the school finance model. He outlined the budget review process and schedule for the development of EIA recommendations.

Mr. Daniel introduced Drs. William Brown and Ellen Potter to provide the second interim report on the evaluation of the EIA-Child Development Program for Four-Year Olds. The authors reviewed the report and provided the EOC with several recommendations. Those recommendations follow:

- Disseminate clear criteria for what constitutes at risk status for children and families;
- Establish methods in EIA-funded preschools that promote recruitment and enrollment of all children who are at the greatest risk for school readiness difficulties;
- As funds become available or as flexible use of funds is permitted, allocate future EIA funding to serve children who are at risk, or to enroll children who are at risk in full-day programs, or both;
- South Carolina should establish an interagency task force composed of public and private stakeholders in early childhood services to review implementation issues and make recommendations to address those issues; and
- South Carolina should establish a statewide, interagency professional development system for preschool personnel that will identify professional needs and implement and evaluate professional development activities to meet those needs, especially in the areas of
 1. literacy and numeracy
 2. working with families
 3. developmentally appropriate practices for children
 4. positive child guidance strategies
 5. assessment of children's learning

The report was accepted as information and referred to the EIA Subcommittee for review during its budget deliberations.

- C. Parent and Community Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the Subcommittee, indicating that the Subcommittee is meeting in September to review the focus group report.
- D. Public Awareness: Mr. Lightsey reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He asked the EOC to approve a partnership with DonorsChoose and to solicit funding for the SC operation. The motion was approved. Mr. Lightsey reviewed the county presentation information and asked approval. The motion was approved. He reminded EOC members that they should provide Mrs. Elmore with the dates they can attend the meetings.
- E. Administration: Mr. Staton presented the objectives and critical actions for 2003-2004 arising from the July discussions. The objectives and critical actions were adopted.

Dr. Anderson reviewed the issues and recommendations on the school report card. The recommendations were approved.

- IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Rep. Walker introduced Jim Thompson and Craig Hilton from the national Beta Club. Mr. Hilton presented information on an online teacher resource system. The Beta Club is seeking a SC partnership and funding to complete the system as well as pilot the system in 15 school districts.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.